

Whereas the national security law was passed without input from the semi-democratic Legislative Council of Hong Kong, or from the Hong Kong people more generally, and with no other attempt to account for the well-founded concerns of the Hong Kong people regarding the sweeping nature of the legislation and its incompatibility with Hong Kong's system of justice and legal protections for fundamental rights and freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region have applied the draconian national security law arbitrarily to conduct a crackdown of unprecedented scope and intensity, criminalizing peaceful protests, political dissent, and other forms of nonviolent expression by the people of Hong Kong;

Whereas the objective of the political crackdown is to persecute individuals who have led peaceful pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong and to nullify the fundamental freedoms and human rights guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong under the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing December 19, 1984 (commonly referred to as the "Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984"), and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, adopted April 4, 1990 (in this preamble referred to as the "Hong Kong Basic Law");

Whereas, in July 2020, Hong Kong authorities charged 19-year-old activist Tony Chung with "inciting secession" on account of peaceful political speech that occurred prior to the enactment of the national security law, and, in October 2020, arrested and imprisoned Chung, who remains incarcerated awaiting trial under the national security law;

Whereas, in July 2020, Hong Kong authorities announced that elections for the Legislative Council scheduled to be held in September 2020 would be postponed for an entire year under the pretense of public health concerns;

Whereas, in August 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party detained 12 Hong Kong activists at sea, 2 of whom were juveniles, attempting to flee Hong Kong for Taiwan, and, after holding those individuals arbitrarily for 4 months and denying them access to lawyers hired by their families, in December 2020, tried them in a secret proceeding in Shenzhen, China, and, in January 2021, sentenced 10 of the 12 individuals to prison;

Whereas, in November 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing, China, the rubber-stamp legislature of the Chinese Communist Party, adopted a decision that unilaterally disqualified Hong Kong legislators who "publicize or support independence," "seek foreign interference," or engage in "other activities that endanger national security," thereby allowing proxies of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong to arbitrarily remove any legislator whose views the Party found objectionable, which they immediately did by removing 4 pro-democracy legislators;

Whereas, in December 2020, a Hong Kong court sentenced prominent pro-democracy leaders and activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam to prison for their roles in an "unauthorized assembly" in 2019;

Whereas, in December 2020, Hong Kong authorities arrested the founder of Apple Daily and pro-democracy advocate Jimmy Lai on false charges, repeatedly denied him bail, and subsequently charged him with colluding

with foreign forces under the national security law;

Whereas, in January 2021, Hong Kong authorities arbitrarily arrested 53 pro-democracy politicians and subsequently charged all but 6 of them with "subversion" under Article 22 of the national security law for simply conducting a public opinion poll in July 2020 regarding candidates for the Legislative Council;

Whereas, on February 23, 2021, Hong Kong authorities announced that any candidate for district councilor, the lowest level of officials and the only office that is fully democratic, must be a "patriot" and take an oath swearing to uphold the Hong Kong Basic Law and pledge allegiance to the Government of the People's Republic of China, and candidates who engage in "negative" behaviors, such as promoting self-determination, composing a referendum, or "seeking to undermine the Hong Kong government's interest and political structure," will be barred from election for 5 years;

Whereas, on February 28, 2021, Hong Kong authorities arrested 47 pro-democracy figures, most of whom are or were elected government officials, with "conspiracy to commit subversion" under the national security law for organizing and participating in an informal democratic primary for the Legislative Council;

Whereas, on February 28, 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, "We condemn the detention and charges filed against pan-democratic candidates in Hong Kong's elections and call for their immediate release. Political participation and freedom of expression should not be crimes. The U.S. stands with the people of Hong Kong.";

Whereas, on March 11, 2021, the National People's Congress in Beijing adopted measures designed to fundamentally undo the existing democratic process in Hong Kong; and

Whereas the people of Hong Kong have repeatedly shown extraordinary dedication to the cause of democracy and freedom for more than 3 decades, and almost continuously since 2014, protesting peacefully in the broiling heat and pouring rain while often enduring tear gas, water cannons, and worse, and have organized their communities, written petitions, tried to stand for office, and volunteered for various forms of civic engagement, and when the police attacked protesters, other Hong Kongers stepped up to serve as medics, legal advisers, and liaisons to the protestors' families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the crackdown carried out in Hong Kong by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Chinese Communist Party under the illegitimate and arbitrary pretext of national security and notes that the crackdown violates the legal obligations of that Government under—

(A) the international, legally binding Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing December 19, 1984 (in this resolution referred to as the "Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984"); and

(B) the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, adopted April 4, 1990 (in this resolution referred to as the "Hong Kong Basic Law");

(2) expresses solidarity with the people of Hong Kong, including pro-democracy advocates, independent journalists, lawyers, people of faith, and other targeted groups in Hong Kong;

(3) calls on the United States Government to use all diplomatic means and economic tools available, including targeted sanctions and measures provided for in the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-76; 22 U.S.C. 5701 note) and the Hong Kong Autonomy Act (Public Law 116-149; 22 U.S.C. 5701 note), to—

(A) impose costs on Chinese Communist Party officials, officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and officials of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region responsible for—

(i) the criminalization of political dissent under the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (in this resolution referred to as the "national security law"); and

(ii) the implementation of the national security law;

(B) provide refuge and safe harbor to those Hong Kongers at risk for persecution, including by designating such individuals as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern;

(C) demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Hong Kong, including Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, Jimmy Lai, Martin Lee, Margaret Ng, Lee Cheuk-yan, Leung Kwok-hung, Benny Tai, Tony Chung, the Hong Kong 12, and all others who have been arrested or detained on account of acts of political expression or speech, and press for all charges against those individuals to be dropped; and

(D) demand the revocation of the political oaths required of civil servants and candidates for district councilor and the Legislative Council of Hong Kong, the reinstatement of the previously disqualified members of the Legislative Council, and the revision of election laws to ensure consistency with Article 26 of the Hong Kong Basic Law;

(4) calls on the United States Government, as it contemplates future bilateral or multilateral agreements with the Government of the People's Republic of China, to take into full consideration the fact that the Government of the People's Republic of China is failing to honor its clear obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to urge the International Olympic Committee to consider relocating the 2022 Winter Olympics from Beijing to another suitable host city located outside of China, on account of the flagrant violations of human rights committed by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party in mainland China, Hong Kong, the Tibet Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and elsewhere.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh to be Secretary of Labor as provided under the previous order; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, on Monday, after the Senate convenes, we expect to swear in Karen Gibson to be Senate Sergeant at Arms.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous con-

sent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator CORNYN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, whether the administration wants to call it a challenge or a mess—or pick your word—a calculated word choice does not change the magnitude of what is currently happening on our southern border.

Hundreds of unaccompanied children are being detained on a daily basis, completely overwhelming the capacity of the Border Patrol and Health and Human Services to deal with it—witness the two new centers opened up in Midland, TX, in West Texas, and a new one at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas that will house approximately 300,000 young men.

At one point, there were more than 4,200 children in custody, nearly 3,000 of them held beyond the 72-hour time limit set by the Flores Settlement. For comparison, there were about 2,600 children in custody at any given time during the peak in 2019, so 2,600 now to 4,200.

In many cases, these children don't make the dangerous journey north with their parents but in the care of human smugglers—coyotes, as they are called. Parents pay these smugglers thousands of dollars to bring their children to the United States.

In some cases, along that long, treacherous journey, whether it is from Central America or from Mexico or anywhere else—because these children are not just limited to Mexico and Central America—these children are kidnapped by the smugglers on their way to the border because they know having a child in their custody will give them preferential treatment and allow them to stay in the country. Sadly, we know that, too often, children are mistreated, abused, or even sexually assaulted on the way to the United States.

There is a lot of work that has to be done from the moment the Border Patrol first encounters these children until they are transferred into the custody of Health and Human Services, but the Border Patrol lacks the physical space or the personnel or the resources to provide this number of children with the care and support they need and also to carry out their duties, especially during a deadly pandemic.

On Monday, I spoke with the Border Patrol sector chiefs and the Office of Field Operations Directors from across Texas. We talked about the surge in unaccompanied children and the cascading consequences this crisis has had on our other border missions.

As Border Patrol officers encounter, transport, and care for these children, they are often invariably diverted from their job securing the border, and so security gaps are left along the rest of the border. This is not an accident.

This is really part of the strategy that the human smugglers and drug smugglers have: flood the zone, preoccupy the Border Patrol taking care of children, leaving gaps that can then be exploited, either by more human smugglers or by drug smugglers.

We all know that large amounts of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and the like come across our southern border. Ninety-two percent, according to the DEA, of all the heroin in the United States comes from Mexico.

So these smugglers and their really criminal organizations that ply in different commodities and different things, they flood the system to distract the Border Patrol and then exploit the vulnerabilities to bring people, drugs, weapons, and money across.

One of the Border Patrol chiefs told me that Customs and Border Protection needs to be able to identify and classify the migrants they meet, and it is being strained, which is impacting national security. For example, last Friday when I was in Carrizo Springs and in Laredo with my friend HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat representing a border district in Texas along the Rio Grande, the sector chief told us that, just so far this year, migrants from 54 different countries were detained coming across the border in the Del Rio Sector. Now, I think that sort of gives you a better idea that this is not just a localized phenomenon; these are criminal networks with really connections all around the world. If you want to come from Mexico, for example, it will cost you a few thousand bucks. If you want to come from Central America, you pay a little bit more of a premium. If you want to come from Europe or a Middle East country, it will cost you even more. But it is only a matter of money because that is the only thing that these smugglers and these criminal organizations care about.

But then people from 54 different countries, some of which are countries of special interest to the United States for national security purposes—54 countries represented just so far this year in one sector, and I am sure the other Border Patrol sectors have similar stories.

What is more, since October, the Border Patrol has encountered more than 4,000 criminal aliens, nearly double the amount from the previous fiscal year in less than half the time. In order to qualify as a criminal alien, you have committed significant crimes, like assault, battery, domestic violence, sexual offenses, even manslaughter and homicide. Of course, these are just the ones we know about and who were actually detained. Many more—we don't know how many more, but many more get through unobstructed across the border.

While Border Patrol is overwhelmed by the sheer number of people crossing